

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A manually actuated staple gun with a cap feeding device comprising:

- a. a manually actuated staple gun for ejecting one staple at a time in response to the staple gun being impacted against a work surface;
- b. a cap feeding device attached to the staple gun for dispensing one cap at a time into the path of a staple being ejected from the staple gun, the cap feeding device comprising:
 - i. a cap container for containing a stack of caps;
 - ii. a shuttle mechanism disposed adjacent the cap container and including a feeder that moves back and forth between a first and second position and wherein the feeder is operative to engage and move one cap at a time from the stack of caps contained in the cap container;
 - iii. a guide extending between the feeding device and the staple gun for directing caps from the cap feeding device to a position adjacent the staple gun such that staples being ejected from the staple gun can be directed through the caps;
 - iv. a movable mechanical linkage connected between the staple gun and the cap feeding device for causing one cap at a time to be positioned in the path of a staple being ejected by the staple gun; and

- v. the mechanical linkage being movable in response to the staple gun being manually actuated by impacting the staple gun against the work surface and causing ~~to cause~~ a staple to be expelled therefrom and operative to actuate the shuttle mechanism and drive the feeder.

2. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 1 wherein the staple gun includes at least two portions wherein one portion of the staple gun moves with respect to the other portion, and wherein the cap feeding device is fixed with respect to one portion of the staple gun and the movable mechanical linkage is connected to the other portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 2 wherein the movable mechanical linkage is arranged with respect to the manual staple gun and the cap feeding device such that as one portion of the manual staple gun moves with respect to the other, the mechanical linkage drives the shuttle mechanism and causes the feeder thereof to move between a first and second position.

4. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 3 wherein in the first position the feeder assumes a position underneath the stack of caps in the container, and wherein in the second position the feeder assumes a position spaced away from the first position which allows a lower cap of the stack of caps in the container to move into the guide.

5. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 4 wherein the shuttle mechanism includes a spring for biasing the feeder towards the first position.

6. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 5 wherein the feeder includes a cap engager and an arm extending from the cap engager and which is pivotally mounted on the cap feeding device.

7. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 6 wherein the spring is attached to the arm of the feeder and biases the cap engager to the first position that underlies the stack of caps in the container, and wherein the mechanical linkage is operative to engage and move the arm against the bias of the spring such that the cap engager is moved to the second position.

8. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 7 wherein the mechanical linkage includes a pair of spaced apart links that extend from the manual staple gun to a position where the mechanical linkage engages the arm of the feeder.

9. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 8 wherein the movable portion of the manual staple gun includes a movable member and wherein the other portion of the manual staple gun includes a main body portion and wherein when the manual staple gun is actuated the movable member engages a surface and moves with respect to the main body portion, and wherein the mechanical linkage for actuating the feeder is connected to the movable member.

10. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 1 wherein the container of the cap-feeding device is disposed at an incline and wherein the guide includes a curved track that extends from the bottom of the container to a staple ejection area of the staple gun.

11. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 1 wherein there is a staple ejection area associated with the staple gun and wherein the guide extends into the staple ejection area and includes a seat for holding individual caps in the staple ejection area, and wherein the seat is configured such that the force of a staple ejected through the underlying cap within the seat is sufficient to discharge the cap from the seat.

12. (Currently Amended) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 11 wherein the seat of the guide includes a tapered edge that facilitates the discharge of a cap from the seat.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding caps from a cap feeding device to a manually actuated staple gun wherein the cap feeding device is attached to or forms a part of the manually actuated staple gun having a movable striker that moves with respect to a main body portion of the staple gun, comprising:

- a. ~~engaging a surface with the staple gun and pressing the staple gun against the surface and causing one portion of the staple gun to move with respect to another portion impacting the~~ striker of the manual staple gun against a work surface and moving the striker with respect to the main body portion of the staple gun and ejecting a staple from the staple gun;
- b. driving a cap feeder associated with the cap feeding device in response to the manual actuation of the staple gun and ~~one portion of the staple gun moving with respect to the other portion~~

the impacting of the striker against the work surface and the
ejection of a staple from the staple gun; and

c wherein the step of driving the cap feeder includes moving a linkage that is interconnected between the ~~staple gun~~ striker and the cap feeding device and wherein the movement of the linkage is initiated by ~~pressing the~~ impacting the striker of the staple gun against the work surface and causing ~~one portion of the~~ striker of the staple gun to move with respect to the ~~other portion~~ main body of the staple gun.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 including moving the cap feeder back and forth between first and second positions, and including biasing the cap feeder towards the first position and moving the cap feeder from the first position to the second position by ~~pressing~~ impacting the staple gun against the surface and causing the linkage between the staple gun and the cap feeding device to be actuated.

15. Canceled.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the cap feeder assumes a first position underneath a stack of caps contained within a container and is movable therefrom to a second position that permits a lowermost cap to move into alignment with a guide, and wherein the cap feeder is operative to move back to the first position underneath the stack of caps in the container, but wherein during the process the cap feeder is operative to engage the lowermost cap and advance the cap towards the staple gun.

17. (Currently Amended) A combination manually actuated staple gun and cap feeding device comprising:

- a. a manually actuated staple gun having a main body and a striker movable with respect to the main body in response to ~~hitting~~ impacting the striker against a surface and operative to eject a staple from the staple gun in response to impacting the striker against the surface;
- b. a cap feeder device mounted on the staple gun and including:
 - i. a container for holding a stack of caps;
 - ii. a guide extending between the container and a staple ejection area of the staple gun for directing caps from the container to the staple ejection area where a staple from the staple gun may be directed through an underlying cap so as to secure the cap to the surface;
 - iii. a feeder associated with the cap feeding device for transferring one cap at a time from the container to the guide;
 - iv. the feeder assuming a first position underneath the stack of caps and movable therefrom to a second position spaced from the first position such that the lower most cap of the stack can drop into a position where the lower most cap can be advanced through the guide to the staple ejection area;and

- v. means for moving the cap feeder back and forth between the first and second positions, said means including at least one spring for biasing the cap feeder towards one of the two positions and a linkage interconnected between the movable striker of the manually actuated staple gun and the cap feeder for driving the cap feeder towards the second position in response to the striker of the staple gun being impacted against the surface and staple being ejected from the staple gun.

18. (Original) The combination staple gun and cap feeding device of claim 17 wherein the container is disposed at an angle with respect to the main body of the staple gun.

19. (Original) The combination staple gun and cap feeder of claim 18 wherein the guide is non-linear.

20. (Original) The combination staple gun and cap feeding device of claim 17 wherein the cap feeder includes a cap engager that is slidable back and forth and an arm connected to the cap engager and pivotally mounted on the cap feeding device.

21. (Previously Presented) The staple gun and cap feeding device of claim 20 wherein the linkage extending between the striker and the cap feeding device engages the arm of the cap feeder and moves the arm in response to the staple gun being manually actuated and impacted against a surface, and wherein there is provided a spring that is connected to the arm of the cap feeder and biases the cap feeder towards the first position.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of feeding caps from a cap feeder device to a manual staple gun wherein the cap feeder~~er~~ing device is attached to or forms a part of the manual staple gun, comprising: manually actuating the staple gun by ~~engaging a surface with~~ impacting a movable portion of the staple gun and pressing the staple gun against ~~[[the]]~~ a work surface and causing ~~[[one]]~~ the movable portion of the manual staple gun to move with respect to another portion of the staple gun and resulting in the staple gun ejecting a staple; and driving the cap feeder device in response to ~~[[one]]~~ the movable portion of the staple gun impacting the work surface and a staple being ejected from the staple gun, wherein the staple gun includes a main body and a striker movable with respect to the main body, and wherein the method entails hitting the striker against the surface and causing a staple to be ejected from the staple gun and driving the cap feeding device in response to the striker engaging the surface moving with respect to the other portion.

23. Canceled.

24. Canceled.

25. (Previously Presented) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 1 wherein the staple gun includes a main body and a movable striker, and wherein the mechanical linkage connects the striker and the cap feeding device, and wherein the staple gun is manually actuated by hitting the striker against a surface which causes the mechanical linkage to be actuated and which in turn actuates the cap feeding device.

26. (Previously Presented) The manually actuated staple gun of claim 25 wherein the striker moves up and down with respect to the main body, and wherein the striker is operative to drive the mechanical linkage as the striker moves up and down.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the staple gun includes a main body and a striker movable with respect to the main body and operative to cause one staple at a time to be ejected from the staple gun, and wherein the method includes striking the striker against the surface causing a staple to be ejected from the staple gun and wherein striking the striker against the surface ~~driving~~ drives the cap feeder.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the staple gun includes a main body and a striker movable with respect to the main body and wherein the method includes actuating the staple gun by hitting the striker against a surface and causing a staple to be expelled from the staple gun and driving a linkage interconnected between the striker and the cap feeding device.